

Economic Development & Improvement Commission

Special Meeting – Thursday June 19, 2008 – 12:00
Basement/Ground Level Conference Room, Town Hall

MINUTES

1. Call To Order – As Chair Rosania was not present, Howard Greenblatt called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.
2. Attendance and Quorum (6 members required)

Members in attendance: Brian Silver, Howard Greenblatt, John Adamian, Bill Knapp, Ken Rizzio, Doug Sacks, Kate Mullen and Joan Hughes.

Members absent: Chair Betty Rosania, Chris Monroe, Chris Lyons, Tony Homicki and Joe Cornelio.

Also in attendance: Phil Knecht – Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison, Peter Gillespie – Economic Development Manager/Town Planner and Denise Bradley – Assistant Planner.

3. Old Business

- a. Strategic Plan Update – Goals, Objectives and Strategies 2008 – Peter Gillespie noted that the Finance Committee held a meeting on June 18th where they discussed revising the mission statement and setting new goals for the Strategic Plan. He added that he would distribute changes to the EDIC for review and comment.
- b. Status Report - Church Street/SDH Streetscape Project – Peter Gillespie reported that the stone walls are nearing completion and work on the handicap ramps will commence shortly. He noted that a few problems had been encountered and that additional funding sources to complete the remainder of the project totaling about \$600K are being sought.
- c. Preserve America Master Plan – Peter Gillespie reported that the draft plan was presented at a public hearing in May. He noted that the plan had been generally well received. The public comments will be worked into a revised document that will be reviewed by the Town Council in July.
- d. Horse and Carriage Rides – Peter Gillespie reported that the town has received an additional \$25K grant to continue this program. This funding will allow for an increased number of rides this season than was originally anticipated. With high temperatures and vacations in July and August, he anticipates more activity in the fall and winter holiday seasons.
- e. 1260 Silas Deane Highway – Status Report – Peter Gillespie reported that Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission approved the plan revisions and the application will proceed to the Planning and Zoning Commission in July.

4. New Business

- a. Budget 2008/2009 – Peter Gillespie noted that with the passage of the budget, the EDIC line items remained fairly intact. He added that with next year's budget process the council has indicated that they will be looking for quantifiable benchmarks.
- b. Keiler Status – Peter Gillespie commented that there was nothing to report on this matter except that the budget had been dramatically cut. He noted that when the Marketing Sub-Committee meets again that they will discuss how to proceed.
- c. Breakfast Meetings – Peter Gillespie noted that the Chamber of Commerce has several breakfasts planned and added that the EDIC should target a date in September to host an event.
- d. Business Visitation Program – Peter Gillespie reported that the Marketing Sub-Committee had recently agreed to take the lead on this project and that he would re-circulate the list of new businesses.
- e. Shop Local – Peter Gillespie reported that he met with Chamber representatives who expressed interest in working with the town. He noted that there is a consideration to use the town calendar to promote the program and that there is only \$2 – 2,500 available to kick-off the program.
- f. Silas Deane Highway Mixed Use Overlay Zone – Peter Gillespie reported that the proposed changes are almost ready to proceed through the Planning and Zoning permit process. He added that the study committee would meet again to finalize proposal in the upcoming weeks.
- g. Redevelopment Forum – Peter Gillespie reported that about 50 people attended the forum and that the tape is still running on public access television. The 1st forum was meant to identify the nature of problems while the 2nd forum, tentatively scheduled for September, will be meant to discuss possible solutions.

5. Reports of the Town Manager -

Town Manager's Report – No report was given.

Town Council Liaison's Report – No report was given.

Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison's Report - Phil Knecht reported on the highlights of the June 3rd & June 17th meetings.

Tourism Commission Liaison's Report – No report was given.

Redevelopment Agency Liaison's Report - Ken Rizzio reported on the highlights of the June 17th meeting.

Director of Planning and Economic Development's Report – Peter Gillespie noted the updated Available Property List and noted that the Comstock Ferre application will be heard by the Historic District Commission on June 24th.

6. Chairman's Report – No report was given.

6. Sub-Committee Reports -

Marketing and Communications – Doug Sacks discussed the following:

- Farmer's Market
- Business Visitation

Financial Strategies – Ken Rizzio noted that the committee met on June 18th and discussed the following:

- Mangia Pizza Façade Application
- Possibility of 3rd STEAP grant

8. Minutes- Approval of May 15, 2008 meeting minutes – Ken Rizzio made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Doug Sacks seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Abs.-Bill Knapp.

9. Next Meeting – July 10, 2008

10. Correspondence

- a.** June 2008 Monthly Report

11. Adjournment - Bill Knapp made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:25 p.m. Brian Silver seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Bradley, Assistant Planner